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ARGENTINA

President Peron is resisting pressure from within her party for more cabinet changes and the removal of her controversial advisers. Many Peronist leaders have now joined other civilian groups in believing that only by purging her administration can Peron avert a military coup that could well eliminate civilian participation in the top ranks of the government.

Peron late Monday underscored her resistance by refusing to accept resignations offered by her entire cabinet and reiterating her confidence in them. The move came shortly after Peronist leaders had met with the President to demand the removal of her advisers and the adoption of new economic policies.

The Peronist national council—the central organ of the party—supported the demands, but only after a bitter debate that resulted in the resignation of six members loyal to the President. The six accused their colleagues of betraying Peron and advocating "deceitful questioning of the cabinet and government policies." The council's action is a particularly serious blow, coming on the heels of a resolution by the leaders of organized labor which limited their public support to the institution of the presidency, rather than to defend the incumbent by name as they had done before.

Despite Peron's refusal so far to give in, it is unlikely that she can long withstand the combined pressure of labor, politicians, and now her own party. Indeed, the President only narrowly headed off a congressional move last week to declare her "unable" to discharge her duties. Congress is scheduled to reconvene today to consider such a declaration again.

At least a token concesssion to her opponents, such as the sacrifice of one or more cabinet ministers, appears inevitable if Peron is to avoid being forced into temporary or permanent retirement.

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